

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 8-14, 2014.

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Office of Subsistence Management, USFWS.

The purpose of the weekly fisheries update is to provide the reader with an overall summary of the status of subsistence related fisheries throughout the state of Alaska. The target audience is the Federal Subsistence Board and its Staff Committee. The report was compiled with the assistance of the Federal in-season managers and OSM staff that provided weekly updated information by the close of business on Friday of the reporting week. My goal is to have the report posted on the Office of Subsistence website by the close of business the following Monday. Web links have been included to provide additional information. You may obtain additional information on a fishery of particular interest by contacting the in-season manager, provided contacts, follow the provided web links, or contact me.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

Sitka and Hoonah Area – Justin Koller, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
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Sockeye

The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the sockeye monitoring weir at Klag Bay which is scheduled to be operational the last week in June. In 2013, a total of 6,896 sockeye salmon migrated past the weir while an estimated total of 4,550 sockeye salmon were harvested in the marine terminal area subsistence and sport fishery. Subsistence harvest accounted for over 99% of terminal area harvest

The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir and video-equipped net weir which are scheduled to be operational in mid-June. In 2013, an estimated total of 49,124 sockeye salmon passed through the weir into Redoubt Lake. On June 27th, 2013, in accordance with the Redoubt Lake Management Plan, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game set the individual/household subsistence sockeye salmon possession limit at 25 and the individual/household subsistence sockeye salmon annual limit at 100. The preliminary subsistence sockeye salmon harvest in 2013 was 4,336. Also consistent with the management plan, a directed commercial fishery was open targeting Redoubt sockeye salmon for the first time since 2007. The fishery was open eighteen days between July 7th and August 3rd and resulted in the harvest of 3,304 sockeye salmon.

The Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake operate the Falls Lake trap and video net weirs which will be operational the first week of July. The final escapement in 2013 was estimated at 1,120 sockeye salmon while the final subsistence and sport harvest in the marine terminal area was 880 sockeye salmon. Subsistence harvest accounted for over than 98% of terminal area harvest.

Wrangell/Petersburg Area – Bob Larson, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
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Week ending Jun 7, 2014; statistical week 23

Week ending June 14, 2014; statistical week 24

The first weekly Chinook salmon in-season abundance estimate for this season is 25,031 large Chinook salmon. That exceeds the 24,500 large Chinook salmon return threshold necessary for a subsistence fishery and the subsistence fishery will open 12:01 a.m. Saturday June 14, 2014. The first commercial gillnet fishery opens in Districts 6 and 8 on June 16 as a directed sockeye fishery. The following link provides a summary of Southeast Alaska and Yakutat commercial fisheries:

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmonfishery_updates

Yakutat, Juneau, and Admiralty areas of Northern Southeast Alaska - Ben Van Alen, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
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The sockeye salmon runs and subsistence fisheries are just starting in the Admiralty and Juneau areas. Project personnel are preparing for the double-redundant video net weir projects at Neva Lake, Kook Lake, and Sitkoh Lake which are scheduled to begin in mid-June.

In the Yakutat area, the sockeye salmon runs usually begin in earnest in mid-June. A news release will be out soon to inform Federal subsistence users that the Forest Service will not be issuing Federal subsistence fishing permits to take Chinook salmon in the Situk River unless ADF&G personnel count enough Chinook salmon through the Situk weir to justify reopening the State's subsistence fishery for Chinook salmon.

The Southeast Alaska purse seine fishery will begin on Sunday June 15 at Point Augusta and Hidden Falls with a 15-hour opening. The Purse Seine Fishery Management Plan does not indicate that the State is planning to take any new or additional management actions to reduce harvests of sockeye salmon bound for bays and streams in the Angoon and Kake area. Special restrictions will probably not be needed in 2014 since the seine effort reflects the pink return and the pink salmon return is anticipated to be relatively small as it has been in recent odd years. The escapements of pink salmon were low and below goals in the northern inside area in 2012. In 2013, the sockeye escapements were at or near the lowest on record in Neva, Kook, Sitkoh, and Falls Lakes.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has increased the daily and annual household limit for the subsistence take of sockeye salmon at Kanalku from 15 to 25 fish.

Prince of Wales and Ketchikan District Area – Jeff Reeves, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest.

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Permits continue to be returned from the Prince of Wales/Kosciusko Spring Subsistence Steelhead fishery. A total of 63 permits were issued to Prince of Wales Island residents during this fishery. Permits from this fishery being returned and are not due back until June 15. The total reported harvest from permits returned to date is at 7 with 3 from the Thorne River and 4 from Staney Creek.

The 2014 General salmon permits for Southeast Alaska are valid through the end of the year. Currently, 130 permits have been issued for this fishery

Most subsistence users are actively fishing marine waters for Chinook salmon and halibut under sport fishing regulations. Although a couple of Prince of Wales Island streams have June returns of sockeye, most subsistence users are in preparation for subsistence harvest in July.

A Sockeye salmon weir is currently active and fishing at Hatchery Creek. To date 32 sockeye have been counted at this project. The Hetta Lake weir is in and fishing, however, no updates on any fish passage have been received.

The first commercial seine opening targeting hatchery chum will commence this coming weekend within District 2.

Southeast Alaska Web Links***Tongass National Forest News Room***

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/news/tongass/news-events>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Southeastern Alaska Area

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Southeast.pdf

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order Link

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R1>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southeast Alaska

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R1.home>

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

Prince William Sound – Copper River – Molly McCormick, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve. (907) 822-7280 Molly_McCormick@nps.gov

As of June 12, 2014 the ADF&G sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) estimated that 610,329 salmon had migrated upstream. This estimate is 180% of the projected escapement objective of 338,629 for this date, or 271,700 more salmon. An estimate of 15,956 salmon migrated by the sonar counter on June 12th.

MILES LAKE SONAR ESTIMATES (TOTAL SALMON)

Year	Estimate	Year	Estimate	Year	Estimate	Year	Estimate
1978	107,011	1987	483,478	1996	906,867	2005	854,268
1979	237,173	1988	488,398	1997	1,148,079	2006	959,731
1980	276,538	1989	607,797	1998	866,957	2007	926,438
1981	535,263	1990	581,895	1999	848,921	2008	614,999
1982	467,306	1991	579,435	2000	587,592	2009	709,330
1983	545,724	1992	601,952	2001	833,569	2010	924,010
1984	536,806	1993	797,902	2002	819,000	2011	914,285
1985	436,313	1994	715,181	2003	695,233	2012	1,271,354
1986	509,275	1995	599,265	2004	669,646	2013	1,267,060

Commercial harvests in the Copper River District of Prince William Sound as of June 13 are:

- 8,779 Chinook
- 1,281,467 sockeye
- 152 coho
- 29 pink
- 36,297 chum

The Chitina Subdistrict opened this week on June 9 and is scheduled to remain open all week through June 15. It is scheduled to re-open on June 16 and remain open the entire week. The state and federal fisheries in this subdistrict usually follow identical fishing schedules which are set by the state. Forty-two Federal Chitina Subdistrict permits have been issued on FWS's online data base. Additional permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity. Starting on June 16, 2014, the state personal use fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict will be closed to the retention of Chinook salmon for the remainder of the season, by Emergency Order from ADFG.

The Glennallen Subdistrict opened for Federal subsistence users on May 15th and is expected to remain open until September 30th. 181 Federal Glennallen permits have been

issued on FWS's online data base. Additional permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity. The state subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict opened on June 1st. Harvest in this subdistrict has been reported as far upriver as Slana.

The Batzulnetas fishery is open - no permits have been issued so far.

The Tanada Creek weir was operational on May 23. No fish have been counted through the weir yet: the water level in the creek is very low. Further upstream Tanada Creek is completely dry. Salmon usually arrive at the weir in mid- June.



Low water conditions at Tanada Creek weir, June 12, 2014.



Tanada Creek is dry approximately ¼ of the way between the weir and Tanada Lake.

As of June 12, 1,359 Chinook have been tagged at the two project fishwheels in Baird Canyon operated by the Native Village of Eyak and 104 have been recaptured at the Canyon Creek wheels.

ADF&G's counting tower in the Gulkana River was installed on June 4. As of June 11, 54 Chinook and 3,774 sockeye have been counted.

By Emergency Order of the state of Alaska starting June 14, 2014, Chinook salmon harvest in the upper Copper River drainage sport fisheries will be reduced from 4 to 1 Chinook 20 inches or more in length.

Two Special Actions have been issued by the park so far this season:

- setting the tentative preseason schedule for the Chitina subdistrict.
- delaying the starting date of the Chitina Subdistrict federal salmon fishery

Links

ADF&G Miles Lake daily sonar estimates

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon_escapement

NVE's Chinook Escapement Monitoring project in the Copper River

<http://eyak.fishscan.com>

ADF&G Copper River Inseason Commercial Harvest Estimates

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.harvestsummary>

Gulkana River counting tower – ADF&G

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/index.cfm?ADFG=main.LocSelectYearSpecies>

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Subsistence User's Guide

<http://www.nps.gov/wrst/historyculture/upload/Subsistence%20brochure.pdf>

Prince William Sound Federal Subsistence Regulations including Copper River.

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Prince.pdf

PWS and Copper River Flats – Milo Burcham, Forest Service, Cordova.

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The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am for a 36-hour commercial fishing period on Monday, June 16. Cumulative Miles Lake sonar count to date is 621,000 fish whereas the anticipated count for this date is 348,000 fish. A preliminary harvest estimate from the 36-hour period that closed on Wednesday, June 11 was 160,000 sockeye and 790 Chinook salmon with 1,135 deliveries reported.

A total of 22 Federal Subsistence fishing permits have been issued to residents of Cordova for fresh waters of the Copper River Delta. Harvest is not reported until after fish reports are returned at the end of the season. Sixty-five permits were issued for the 2013 season with a reported harvest of 358 coho salmon and 102 sockeye salmon.

Cook Inlet Area – Jeff Anderson, Field Supervisor, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office (907) 260-0132 Jeffrey_Anderson@fws.gov

The 2014 subsistence dip net fisheries for salmon will begin on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers 15 June and 16 June, respectively. Seasons and areas for subsistence fishing with rod and reel are the same as for the taking of fish under Alaska sport fishing regulations. Most of the initial rod and reel subsistence effort will be focused at sockeye salmon in the Upper Kenai and Russian Rivers which opens on June 11. Totals of 70 Kenai River permits and 7 Kasilof River permits have been issued through 12 June.

Based on a preseason forecast of about half of the 5,300 minimum escapement goal for early-run Kenai River Chinook salmon, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game issued an emergency order to close the sport fishery through 30 June. The lower river DIDSON sonar has been operational since 16 May; nearly 3,000 Chinook salmon have been counted through 12 June which is still below projections necessary to achieve the early-run escapement goal.

Early-run sockeye salmon are now entering the upper Kenai and Russian rivers, and sport anglers and subsistence users have reported good success in the rod-and-reel fishery. The ADF&G weir on the Russian River was operational on 5 June, and nearly 5,000 fish have been passed through the weir as of 14 June.

Fish Counts through June 14:

Russian River early-run sockeye (weir)	4,967 (counts end on 14 July)
Russian River late-run sockeye (weir)	(counts begin on 15 July)
Kenai River late-run sockeye (sonar)	(counts begin on 1 July)
Kasilof River sockeye (sonar)	(counts begin on 15 June)
Kenai River early-run Chinook (sonar)	2,996 (counts through 12 June)

Kodiak Island Area – Anne Marie LaRosa, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR

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The sockeye salmon returns continue to be strong along the west side of Kodiak Island. As of Thursday, June 12, 2014, the Karluk, Afognak, and Buskin River systems have met their lower escapement goals for sockeye salmon (132,270 fish; escapement goal range: 110,000 to 250,000 fish; 22,747 fish; escapement goal range: 20,000 to 50,000 fish; and 5,930 fish; escapement goal range: 5,000 to 8,000 fish respectively). In an effort to manage the sockeye salmon fishery along the west side of Kodiak, ADF&G continues to have commercial openings for most of the week.

The villages of Karluk and Larsen Bay are smoking and drying sockeye salmon caught for subsistence purposes. Subsistence harvests have slowed with the ongoing commercial openings on the west side of Kodiak Island. Litnik (Afognak) and Buskin Rivers, as well as in front of Port Lions continue to be common options for Kodiak subsistence users who seek to harvest sockeye salmon before the pink salmon start to show up. Fishing at the mouth of the Buskin River has increased, with up to 12 boats fishing at one time on weekends. This means that fewer fish are caught per vessel. Sport fishing for sockeye salmon on the Buskin is also occurring and by mid-week ADF&G raised the sport bag limit to 5 sockeye salmon per day.

The Pasagshak and Saltery River sockeye salmon runs are also used by subsistence users, but those runs have not yet started.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kodiak Area

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Kodiak.pdf

Bristol Bay and Chignik – Doug McBride Fisheries Branch Chief Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office

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These areas support abundant returns of salmon, particularly sockeye; as well as some of the largest commercial fisheries for salmon in Alaska. All of the assessments of salmon returns are conducted by the State of Alaska, and provide the basis for any inseason

assessment. None of the adjustments in commercial fishing management throughout any of these areas are anticipated to affect subsistence fishing in Federally-managed waters, and these subsistence fisheries commence later in June and July.

Bristol Bay:

Preseason forecasts for sockeye salmon run returns to Bristol Bay, Chignik, and the Alaska Peninsula predict that there will be harvestable surpluses in all districts, and that escapement goals will be achieved in all systems.

For Bristol Bay, the forecast for total return of sockeye salmon is similar to 2014 at approximately 26 million, and escapement goals total ~ 8.5 million sockeye, leaving ~ 17 million sockeye available for harvest. Harvestable surpluses are projected for all systems. The largest returns are predicted for the Egegik, the Naknek/Kvichak, and Nushagak districts. ADFG Commercial Fisheries Division has strategies in place for all mixed stock districts to address differential run strength should that occur. Test fishing to estimate total run strength into Bristol Bay has commenced at Port Moller. The commercial fishing seasons open by regulation in early June. In most districts, commercial fishing is now controlled by Emergency Order. Some commercial fishing for sockeye has commenced in the Egegik and Nushagak districts.

Chinook salmon returns have been poor to moderate in recent years throughout most of Alaska, including Bristol Bay. In 2013, there was one directed opening for Chinook salmon in the Nushagak District. The 2014 Chinook return to the Nushagak River appears adequate to provide some directed commercial fishing. Some conservation measures are in place for most districts to conserve Chinook salmon, including mesh size restriction to 5 ½ inches through mid to late July (depending on district) and reduced fishing time in June (varies by district).

Gillnets are the primary gear used for most subsistence fishing for salmon. A permit is required for subsistence harvest of salmon.

Chignik:

For Chignik, the forecast for total return of sockeye salmon is approximately 0.8 million early run and 0.9 million late run fish. The forecasts for both early-run and late-run sockeye are in excess of escapement goals. The early-run SEG was reclassified to a BEG starting in 2014. The late-run SEG includes an additional 50,000 sockeye for additional subsistence harvest opportunity. Commercial fishing management is based on early run assessment until July 4; then late run assessment after that. Harvestable surpluses are projected for both runs, and escapement goals should be met. Test fishing indicates that there is a buildup sockeye in Chignik Lagoon. Sockeye escapement to date is 63,705.

The escapement goal for Chinook salmon is 1,300 fish. Projected commercial harvest in the Chignik Management Area is 5,000 Chinook salmon and is based upon anticipated fishing time for sockeye. In 2013, all inriver Chinook salmon fisheries, including the

new Federal subsistence fishery, was closed by E.O. (State fisheries) or Special Action (Federal fishery closed effective July 27). No Federal subsistence harvest was realized for 2013. The Federal subsistence fishery for Chinook is currently open until August 9 with rod and reel from a point 300 feet upstream of the ADFG weir to Chignik Lake with no daily harvest or possession limit under the authority of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. Most of the Chinook return occurs in July. The Chinook run has barely begun. Federal subsistence fishing permits are available in four communities through village or tribal administrators.

Select tributaries to Chignik Lake are open to subsistence fishing. Gillnets and seines are the primary gear used for most subsistence fishing. A permit is required for subsistence harvest of salmon.

Alaska Peninsula:

There are numerous salmon stocks and fisheries throughout the Alaska Peninsula, as well as the Aleutian Islands. Several sockeye escapements (mostly on the north peninsula) are monitored with weirs including Nelson, Bear, Sandy, Ilnik, McLees, and Orzinski rivers. Preseason forecasts are made for only the Nelson (500 thousand) and late-run Bear (400 thousand) river sockeye stocks. The largest fisheries are managed under management plans. Management objectives vary by district and time; and include: local sockeye escapements; more distant sockeye returns to Bristol Bay or Chignik; and local pink, chum, or coho returns. Commercial fishing periods targeting Bristol Bay sockeye have been established during June for the South Unimak fishery. Sockeye returns to Alaska Peninsula systems have just begun.

A permit is required for subsistence harvest of salmon.

Stock Assessment funded under the Subsistence Fishery Resource Monitoring Program:
For 2014, there are no stock assessment projects funded under the Subsistence Fishery Resource Monitoring Program.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Bristol Bay Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Bristol.pdf

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Chignik Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/chignik.pdf

Southcentral Alaska Web Links

Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases
<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.R2>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southcentral Alaska
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R2.Home>

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

Yukon River – Gerald Maschmann, Fish Biologist USFWS Fairbanks Office.
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Fred Bue Fredrick_Bue@fws.gov
Emmonak Summer Office (907) 949-1798

The Emmonak Field Office is operational for the 2014 field season and can be contacted by calling (907) 949-1798.

Assessment Information

Ice out on the lower Yukon River was one of the earliest on record with the ice going out at Alakanuk on May 9, fourteen days earlier than average. The first subsistence caught Chinook salmon was reported on May 19, the earliest report in a decade. Managers anticipated an early run of Chinook salmon, and assessment information and subsistence fishing reports are confirming an early entry timing of both Chinook and summer chum salmon.

The Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) consists of the Big Eddy and Middle Mouth Chinook drift and set net fisheries and chum salmon drift net fishery. An effort is being made this year to release alive as many Chinook salmon as possible caught in the drift fishery to conserve the weak run. The department suspended the Chinook salmon set net test fishery at the Big Eddy site on June 7 when fish numbers increased to conserve Chinook salmon. The Chinook salmon set net test fishery at the Middle Mouth site (but not the North Mouth site) is continuing. The Big Eddy Chinook salmon drift net test fishery was reduced from four to two drifts per day on June 9. The projects have reported catching Chinook and chum salmon in both the drift and set net test fisheries. The LYTF Chinook salmon assessment is not comparable to historical averages due to reduced operations, however the test nets are providing useful information for detecting pulses and relative run strength.

The test fishery detected an early group of Chinook salmon passing at the end of May and the first pulse of Chinook salmon on June 7. The first pulse of Chinook typically contains the ¼ point of the Chinook run. The average first ¼ point of the Chinook salmon run in Emmonak is June 16, and the average first ¼ point for early Chinook salmon runs is June 8. Combining the test fish information, the historical early Chinook

run timing, and NOAA's Chinook salmon run timing model, managers are predicting that the ¼ point of this year's Chinook salmon run is on or near June 8. The Big Eddy chum salmon drift net test fishery also detected a group of early chum at the end of May and the first pulse of summer chum on June 7. The summer chum run appears to be early, however it is still too early to be confident in run timing. The average first ¼ point of the summer chum run in the LYTF is June 16. The Pilot Station sonar crew has been test fishing since June 4 and began estimating salmon passage on June 5. The sonar has detected the first pulse of both the Chinook and summer chum runs. Estimated passage through June 13 is 36,000 Chinook salmon, and 317,000 summer chum salmon. The Rapids test fish wheel began operations on June 9 and has detected a few early Chinook salmon.

Subsistence fishermen catch reports indicate that whitefish harvests were good in the two weeks after ice out. Subsistence fishermen along the coast in Scammon Bay and Hooper Bay have reported good chum catches with some nearly finishing their subsistence chum harvests. Chum salmon subsistence reports in the lower Yukon have indicated good catches with dip nets when summer chum have been available in large enough numbers to make dip nets effective.

Summer Season Outlook and Management Strategies

The summer chum run is projected to be average to above average and to provide for escapement and subsistence uses. A surplus of 300,000 to 500,000 summer chum is anticipated to be available for commercial harvest. However, commercial fishing opportunity will depend upon available markets and the strength of the overlapping Chinook salmon run. The Chinook salmon outlook is predicting an extremely poor run size ranging between 64,000 to 121,000 Chinook salmon with managers anticipating the run near the low end based upon recent productivity. At this time, the Chinook salmon run is still projected to be poor based upon early assessment information. Subsistence conservation measures will be required to share the available subsistence harvest and meet escapement goals. No directed Chinook salmon commercial or subsistence fishery is anticipated.

Management Actions

Managers have been instituting actions consistent with the preseason management plan. On May 16 the Coastal District and Districts 1 & 2 were restricted to 6-inch or less mesh gear to protect early run Chinook salmon while providing fishermen the opportunity to harvest whitefish. On May 26, subsistence salmon fishing was closed in the northern portion of the Coastal District and Districts 1, 2, and 3 to conserve Chinook salmon. Subsistence fishing utilizing 4-inch or less mesh gear is still allowed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Subsistence chum salmon fishing with dip nets was opened in Districts 1, 2, and 3 on June 1. Subsistence fishermen utilizing dip nets are required to release all Chinook salmon back into the river. On June 10, Districts 1 and 2 were put on a concurrent subsistence/commercial fishing schedule with dip nets and beach seines targeting chum salmon with Chinook salmon released alive back into the river. In District 1 subsistence and commercial fishing is open concurrently Sunday-Friday from noon until midnight and subsistence only is open Saturdays from 6:00 a.m. until

midnight. In District 2 subsistence and commercial fishing is open concurrently Sunday-Friday from noon until 10:00 p.m. and subsistence only is open Saturdays from 6:00 a.m. until midnight.

The sequential subsistence salmon fishing closures initiated in the Districts 1, 2, and 3 continued going upstream in the lower Subdistrict 4A on May 31, on June 2 in upper Subdistrict 4A, on June 4 in Subdistricts 4B/C, and on June 7 in Subdistricts 5A/B/C. Subsistence fishing with 4-inch or less mesh gear is still allowed 24/7 throughout the drainage during closures. Subsistence dip net opportunities for District 4 will be opened when chum salmon reach these areas. Subsistence fishing in the lower section of Yukon River Subdistrict 5D closed on June 11 and is scheduled to close in the middle and upper sections of Subdistrict 5D on June 15 and June 17, respectively. District 6 is open on the normal subsistence fishing schedule of two 42-hour periods with gillnets restricted to 7.5 inch or less mesh size. The Innoko and Koyukuk Rivers are open to subsistence salmon fishing 24 hours per day 7 days per week gillnets restricted to 7.5 inch or less mesh size.

Kuskokwim River – Brian McCaffery, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Brian McCaffery@fws.gov or Robert Sundown (907) 543-1007 Robert.Sundown@fws.gov

The Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group is scheduled to meet on Tuesday June, 17. Refuge Management is continuing to meet with tribal communities for permit and fisheries management. Refuge staff visited Eek, Sleetmute, Stony River, Crooked Creek, and Red Devil Traditional Councils this week. They listened to concerns from the public, discussed the current data regarding the salmon fishery and distributed permits for the directed Chinook salmon permit fishery. The Chinook salmon at the Bethel Test Fishery continue to return at rates greater than previous years for the same date. We have run timing that are multiple days ahead in all species of fish at the Bethel Test Fishery, however in very few years are the numbers comparable because of the extent of the closures currently in place. The closest year we have to compare is 2012 where significant closures were in effect and we are ahead of that year as well. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has announced opening the dipnet fishery for the lower river beginning on Sunday, June 15. The Yupiit Nation met in Bethel on Thursday and Friday and requested greater opportunity to fish in the near future.

Bethel Test Fish:

- Through the evening tide on June 14th the cumulative index was 313. We are 8 days ahead of 2009, a year where drainage wide escapement was met and surpassed the 2013 season count of 261 where escapement was not made.
- Through the evening tide on June 14th the cumulative chum index was 170, the run is at this point is at least three days ahead in cumulative counts than any year in the previous 5 years.
- Sockeye salmon have an index of 78 through June 14th. Again we are a minimum of three days ahead during the previous 5 years for cumulative counts.

Escapement Projects:

Weirs are in the process of being put in place. The first fish are expected to be counted later this week for the weirs that are in place.

Management Actions:

The State opened the dip net fishery for chum and sockeye on Sunday, June 15th. The Cumulative chum & sockeye to Chinook ratio is in excess of 1:1 and is projected to increase through the end of the season. Kuskokwim management staff is looking for ways to allow for a 6" drift gillnet opportunity this week in the lower river with a continuing increase of chum and sockeye.

Yukon-Kuskokwim-Interior Alaska Web Links***Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases:***

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Yukon–Northern Area

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Yukon.pdf

NEW = Kuskokwim River Updates Hosted on OSM Website

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/kuskokwim.cfm>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kuskokwim Area

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Kusko.pdf

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R3>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Interior Alaska:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R3.home>

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

Northwest Alaska – Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, Nome.
(907) 443-2522 Ken_Adkisson@nps.gov

Norton Sound

All waters from Rocky point to Point Romanof remain closed to sport fishing for Chinook salmon until August 16. Use of bait is prohibited and any Chinook salmon incidentally caught while sport fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be immediately released alive.

Other Southern Norton Sound Waters (Black Point to Point Romanof)

All marine waters from Black Point south to Wood Point, east of St. Michael were closed to subsistence salmon fishing from June 9 through June 30, 2014 in order to protect Chinook salmon migrating through southern Norton Sound. Subsistence salmon fishing in these marine waters will revert back to 24 hours a day 7 days a week on July 1. For all the waters from Wood Point to Point Romanof, subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days a week but fisherman are requested to use set gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less to minimize incidental harvests of Chinook salmon.

Shaktoolik (Subdistrict 5) and Unalakleet (Subdistrict 6)

All marine and fresh waters including the Shaktoolik, Egavik, Unalakleet and Golsovia River drainages were closed to subsistence salmon fishing Monday, June 9. Beginning the week of Monday, June 16, Subdistricts 5 and 6 marine waters will reopen for one 24-hour subsistence fishing period per week allowing gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less. These chum salmon directed subsistence openings will be announced every Monday and will be timed to coincide with more favorable weather. For freshwater areas such as the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet rivers, the department will announce one 36-hour beach seine subsistence opening per week beginning the week of Monday June 23. Any Chinook salmon incidentally captured in beach seines must be immediately returned to the water alive.

Norton Bay (Subdistrict 4)

All Norton Bay marine waters including those from Point Dexter west to Cape Denbigh, and all waters of the Inglutalik River and Ungalik River drainages were closed to subsistence salmon fishing by emergency order on June 9. Koyuk River subsistence salmon fishing was not be affected by this action and remains open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The department will reopen the Ungalik and Inglutalik Rivers and the Norton Bay marine waters for one 48-hour salmon fishing period each week beginning Monday, June 16. These openings will be scheduled to coincide with more favorable weather conditions and announced each Monday. The department will begin increasing subsistence fishing time in Norton Bay Subdistrict on July 1. Additionally, commercial pink and chum salmon openings could begin as early as June 20.

-Golovin (Subdistrict 2) and Elim (Subdistrict 3)

Chinook salmon escapement goals have not been met in several years. Although these runs of Chinook appear to be small groups of fish at the northern edge of the range of viable Chinook salmon populations, the ADF&G is requesting subsistence fishermen to avoid targeting Chinook salmon, and to only fish with gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less. Subsistence fishing with hook and line for Chinook salmon will be closed effective June 9, 2014 until further notice.

Nome (Subdistrict 1)

Last year's chum run was the best in 25 years. While, not expected to be as large as last year's chum salmon run, this year's run is still expected to be another good run. Pink and coho salmon runs are also expected to be good this year. Subsistence salmon gillnet fishing schedules will go into effect next week. Details on the schedules will be provided in next week's report.

Port Clarence District

Sockeye salmon are beginning to show up and folks are looking forward to subsistence fishing and getting out to their camps.

Kotzebue District

Sea ice conditions have significantly improved and some hunters are experiencing really good sea mammal harvests.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for the Kotzebue and Norton Sound Areas

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Kotz.pdf
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Norton.pdf